

Wallenberg file 10-1-57

Wallenberg Story Disputed

A former Soviet secret police official yesterday branded Moscow's official explanation of the disappearance and death of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg as a "misstatement of facts" beginning to erode the Soviet claim that the missing man was killed in a Russian prison was the fault of Victor S. Abakumov, former Minister for State Security, was challenged by Swedish diplomat Raoul Yuri Rastvorov, former lieutenant colonel in the Soviet Secret Police.

The Kremlin this week admitted that Wallenberg was arrested and death of Wallenberg held a prisoner in Moscow.

Rastvorov appeared before the staff of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee Friday and his testimony was made public yesterday.

Rastvorov said he had known Abakumov from the time he entered the security service in 1942, and that at the time of Wallenberg's arrest in 1944 Abakumov was "not the Minister" in charge.

He said the security chief at that time was Gen. Merkulov, who later was executed with Secret Police Boss Lavrenti P. Beria.

Rastvorov said Abakumov was appointed to the top post in late 1946, and was Minister when according to the Kremlin account Wallenberg died of a heart attack in prison.

Abakumov himself was imprisoned in 1955 by Beria for alleged "social crime," which included "unlawful accumulation of several million rubles worth of property in Germany."

At that time, Beria recalled Merkulov to the Minister's post.

The witness said that three years later, after Beria had been shot these charges were dropped in favor of what he termed a "new obviously ridiculous one" that he was one of the participants in the Beria plot.

Rastvorov said Abakumov's trial was secret and he "merely disappeared."

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

FILE 51